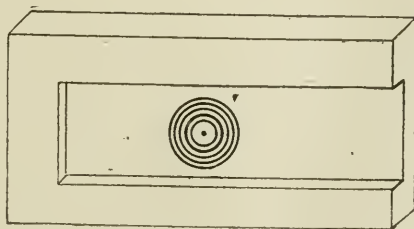


A METAL CENTERING BLOCK FOR MOUNTING.

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The proper centering of objects upon slides has a practical purpose outside of all considerations of mere beauty of appearance. As most microscopes have, or should have, a stop upon the stage against which the slide can rest, an object properly centered thereon will therefore automatically be within the optical axis of the lenses, and thus save time and patience in finding what is wanted.

A card-board, having thereon a diagram of a slide is very primitive in construction, and often exasperating in its use. The card will warp, absorb and retain fluids, the slide must be held in place, thus monopolizing one hand otherwise and better to be employed, and still will often slip and spoil the centering. This very inconvenience was useful ; it caused a desire for something better. This was found in a metal block shown in the accompanying diagram. It is of brass, 2x4 inches in size, 3-16 inch thick, with a depression for the slide 1-16 inch deep, and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch stop at one side.



Its advantages are numerous : being of metal, it is therefore permanent and durable ; of considerable weight, therefore solid and firm ; non-porous, therefore easily cleaned ; and having a groove for the slide, it is held in place, therefore convenient for mounting and labeling.